

Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ASSESSMENT OF OAU CONFERENCE

1. WASHINGTON POST JULY 7 FEATURED DAVID OTTOWAY EVALUATION OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WEAKNESSES IN COPING WITH "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE OF ALL KINDS," AS WELL AS WITH INTRA-AFRICAN DISPUTES. OTTOWAY OBSERVES THAT ORGANIZATION "SEEMS TO BE CRUMBLING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE VERY INTRA-AFRICAN CONFLICTS THAT ARE INCREASINGLY DRAWING THE BIG POWERS, CUBA AND THE ARABS INTO THE AFFAIRS OF FRAGILE BLACK AFRICAN STATES."

2. STORY DATED ADDIS ABABA CITES LONG LIST OF COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES THAT REFLECT HELPLESSNESS OF AFRICAN STATES. IN PARTICULAR, OTTOWAY POINTS TO DISPUTES AMONG ETHIOPIA, KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA, AND SOMALI REPUBLIC, AND LATEST CONFLICT BETWEEN SUDAN AND LIBYA.

3. IN FACE OF THESE PROLIFERATING DISAGREEMENTS, THE OAU
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HAS "FOUND ITSELF POWERLESS TO TAKE MORE THAN A SYMBOLIC

STAND OR GIVE MORE THAN TOKEN SUPPORT TO THE VARIOUS PARTIES SEEKING ITS MORAL AND POLITICAL ASSISTANCE."

4. OTTOWAY OBSERVES THAT NONE OF THESE CONFLICTS WOULD BE SO THREATENING WERE IT NOT FOR THE ARMS BUILDUP UNDER WAY IN ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES AND THE GROWING POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION "IF WAR COMES."

5. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH REVIEW OF SERIOUS DIVISIONS AMONG AFRICANS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUE. OTTOWAY BELIEVES THAT CONTINUED FEUDING COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER "ANGOLA-STYLE CIVIL WAR AND TO MORE FOREIGN INTERVENTION." KISSINGER

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